

Attorney Docket: 1748X/49477  
PATENT

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JC972 U.S. PTO  
09/759251  
01/16/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: STEFAN BRAUCHLE ET AL.

Serial No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Filed: JANUARY 16, 2001

Title: REFORMER OF LAYERED STRUCTURE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.56**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 16, 2001

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

**STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE**

The relevance of German patent document DE 197 27 589 A1 to the subject matter of the present invention is given in the Background and Summary of the Invention in the specification of the present invention.

Serial No. NOT YET ASSIGNED

English abstracts summarizing the disclosures of German patent documents DE 197 46 251 A1; DE 44 20 752 A1 and DE 198 32 386 A1 are submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the mcrits (whichever is later), and therefore no statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent & Trademark Office	Atty. Docket No. 1748X/49477	Serial No. NOT YET ASSIGNED
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)		Applicant: Stefan BRAUCHLE et al		
		Filing Date: JANUARY 16, 2001	Group	

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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	Filing Date (if appropriate)
AA		4,933,242	06/12/90	Koga et al	429	19	
AB		5,015,444	05/14/91	Koga et al	422	195	
AC		5,180,561	01/19/93	Morishima et al	422	191	
AD							
AE							
AF							
AG							
AH							
AI							
AJ							

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document	Date	Country	Class	Sub-class	Translation Yes   No
AK		197 27 589 A1	28.6.97	Germany			
AL		0 642 184 A2	26.5.94	EPO			
AM		0 691 701 A1	05.07.95	EPO			
AN		197 46 251 A1	20.10.97	Germany			abstract
AO		44 20 752 A1	15.6.94	Germany			abstract
AP		198 32 386 A1	18.7.98	Germany			abstract

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AQ	
AR	
AS	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication.